Letter of Introduction by Cullen Stephenson

Welcome to the first issue of The Closed-Loop Scoop! This newsletter combines our former regional newsletters (Solid Waste News, The Exchange, Solid Waste Central, and Clean Sheet). After evaluating the regional newsletters, along with feedback received from county solid waste professionals, we decided that a statewide newsletter would be more efficient and effective than individual regional ones.

As Washington State plans for its future, it is critical that the state support and improve its solid waste infrastructure to reduce the amount of waste. We must immediately begin to base our solid waste system on sustainable resource conservation.

We hope this newsletter will support this effort and promote responsible behavior in all sectors, including businesses, governments, and the general public. Our goal is to increase understanding of the benefits and resource savings of an integrated solid waste management system. The newsletter will help us to build better partnerships with all sectors of the public and to provide education on accurate, topical issues, such as waste reduction, recycling, reuse, and sustainability.

Each issue will cover a variety of aspects of our solid waste program as well as announce upcoming meetings, hearings, and other events. It will keep folks posted on important issues and progress on projects. As with the regional newsletters, you can subscribe to either the electronic or the printed version; this will continue to be an option for the statewide version.

Please join me in wishing our staff much success with this endeavor. We look forward to working cooperatively with the many people in Washington who are critical to forging an ever more successful solid waste system.

9th Annual Solid Waste Status Report & Facility Database

The ninth annual report on the status of solid waste in Washington State was published in December 2000. The report

includes the 1999 Statewide Recycling Survey, information on various solid waste activities and litter collection, and solid waste facility data, as well as disposal and capacity data for landfills and energy-recovery facilities in the state. Questions concerning the report should be directed to Ellen Caywood (360-407-6132 or ecay461@ecy.wa.gov). Both the report and a supporting solid waste facility database are available online at

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/index.html. For a hard copy of the document (Publication #00-07-037) contact Ecology's Publications Center at 360-407-7472.

State's Solid Waste Plan Round Table Meetings

Ecology is Seeking Regional Input. This is your opportunity to influence the direction of Washington State's Solid Waste Plan Revision. Ecology is coordinating an effort to revise the State Solid Waste Plan, last updated in 1991. The goal of the round table meetings is to assemble a wide range of stakeholders to contribute feedback on a shared vision of moving toward a more sustainable system. Participants will be asked to review a draft long-range vision and the scope of issues to address in the plan revision.

A series of meetings will be held in four areas of Washington State – Seattle, Spokane, Wenatchee, and Vancouver – to develop a strategy for revising the State's Solid Waste Plan. Information on meeting dates and locations is available by contacting resolution@resolution-services.com. Twenty-year goals will be established, along with interim milestones, through the planning process. The plan revision is expected to be completed in 2002.

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ERO Efforts Support Affordable Housing

The Solid Waste section of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office is contributing to the creation of affordable housing that also supports the goal of sustainable design and construction. Sustainable Building Specialist Jim Wavada is working with three such projects in the Spokane area.

The Sustainable Housing Innovation Partnership is preparing to develop 54 units of low-income multifamily housing. This will be Phase I of an ultimate 150-unit complex that may include some mixed-use development. Wavada is coordinating advice from sustainable building and energy experts in the area and passing it on to the project's Design Team.

On another project, Wavada is working with the Spokane County Conservation District (SCCD), Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, and the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild--Inland Chapter to develop three standard building plans for modest straw bale homes. The idea is to demonstrate that an end market can be developed locally for wheat stubble and straw for which there is no current market or for which reaching distant markets makes its harvesting uneconomical.

SCCD is committed to building a 10-home community that will demonstrate as many as three different floor plans of around 1,000-1,500 square feet. The homes would be priced under \$100,000 and have features sufficiently attractive to draw interest from conventional homebuyers and building contractors.

In the third project, Wavada is working with Washington State University, Community Colleges of Spokane and Avista Utilities on the development of a certification program for Sustainable Design and Construction. Segments of the course could be broken into individual, topic-specific seminars that could be taken in short sessions or over weekends, and accumulated over time to earn a certification.

In addition to providing a training program for working professionals, the Spokane-based project plans to allow for incorporation as an elective or specialization in WSU's School of Architecture and Construction Management degree programs. Both avenues would remain accessible to working professionals without a need to matriculate into any related degree programs. For more information about any of these projects, contact Jim Wavada, 509-456-6349 or jwav461@ecy.wa.gov.

Recycling Best Practices Collection

Learn from the Clean Washington Center's collection of best practices fact sheets on handling recyclable materials and recycling technology applications -- in wood, glass, tire and rubber, PET plastic, and HDPE plastic. The fact sheets put a special focus on working with suppliers and clients, understanding safety issues, and opportunities in manufacturing. You will find the fact sheets online at http://www.greenbiz.com/toolbox/

Proposed Strategy to Continually Reduce PBTs

After almost three years of dedicated work by many staff at Ecology, the "Proposed Strategy to Continually Reduce Persistent, Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in Washington State" has been released. It is a "Report to the Legislature" required by the 2000 Legislature for consideration this session. The report can be found at Ecology's web site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0003054.html.

Over the last two years, a small band of Ecology employees, along with Dr. Harriet Ammann from the state Department of Health, have traveled the state talking with the public, business groups, environmental organizations, social justice and religious organizations, and staff from several state and local agencies. These discussions have formed the issues and approach contained in the Strategy.

Community Litter Cleanup Program Wins Award

On January 4, 2001, personnel from Ecology, Department of Corrections, and the Jail Industry Board were awarded the Governor's Award for Service and Quality Improvement in recognition of the tremendous impact the Community Litter Cleanup Program (CLCP) has had on the cleanliness of our state.

In 1998, the Legislature directed Ecology to use 20 percent of the Waste Reduction, Recycling and Litter Control Account to fund local government programs for litter control. As a result, Ecology created the CLCP to provide help to local government for the growing problems of litter and illegal dumps.

Currently 34 of 38 CLCP recipients contract with state and local offender work crews for effective and efficient litter cleanup. (The others rely on volunteer crews.) Use of offender crews has resulted in \$670,000 of labor value returned to



communities, and savings of \$245,000 to jails. Ecology regional grant officers manage contracts with CLCP recipients and track litter activity information such as hours, acres and road miles cleaned, and pounds of litter picked up.

While the state agencies involved did a fine job of connecting funding, labor, and a need for improved litter control, the program could not have been a success without the efforts of dozens of individuals throughout local governments who coordinated litter collection. Local governments in all areas of the state developed or enhanced litter control programs on a very short time line, and did so with stellar results. As part of a re-energized litter collection program between 1997 and 1999, the CLCP played a central role in accomplishing:

- A 2.6 million-pound (or 352 percent) increase in collection of litter and illegally dumped materials.
- A 475 percent increase in road miles cleaned.

Another success of the program is getting individuals and businesses involved at the local level, and building a sense of stewardship. Thanks and congratulations to all CLCP participants who have made the program a success! We hope you will share this recognition with us, as part of a job well done.

State Recycling Rate Drops as Commercial Recycling Remains Weak

Washington once had one of the highest recycling rates in the country, but the efforts have lagged in recent years, with a 1.6 percent drop in 1999. According to data collected by the state Department of Ecology (Ecology), the statewide rate for 1999 dipped to 33 percent, after a slight rise in 1998. In 1989, the Waste Not Washington Act established a 50 percent recycling goal for the state. The highest achievement so far was 40 percent in 1995.

Cullen Stephenson, manager of Ecology's solid-waste program, said that although the rate is similar to what the rest of the country is experiencing, several factors influenced the change in Washington's recycling rate. These factors include a flat resale market for recyclables, mature curbside programs and, primarily, weak commercial collection. "Commercial entities generate a lot of waste that could be recycled, but there isn't a good system in place to make it easy for them to do so," Stephenson said.

While there are curbside and drop-off programs across the state for residences, the commercial community has no collection system for recyclables, and businesses must do their own research and schedule pick-ups. "Managing waste materials is often the last consideration for people who are busy trying to run a business," said Stephenson. "It has been proved that recycling and waste management can actually save or make money, but the shift in attention has not been made."



To assist local government efforts to encourage residential recycling, Ecology collects data, provides technical assistance, and distributes grant money to plan and implement waste-management programs and educate the public about recycling. However, since commercial waste is not subject to regulation by the state, technical assistance has not been available to businesses, and they do not have ready access to information.

Education seems to be the common link for success in both the residential and commercial sectors, noted Stephenson. Since 1995, funding has not been available to help counties with education and outreach, he said, so even residential recycling has flattened out. The department convened a recycling assessment panel in September 1999 to assess the barriers to recycling and identify ways to increase recycling and markets for recycled materials. The panel issued a report to the Legislature in February 2000.

Foremost in the panel's report were recommendations to improve commercial recycling. The solid-waste industry is helping by holding public meetings across the state to identify specific ways to boost commercial recycling.

Stephenson added that there are several ways the public can help raise the recycling rate:

- Find out what local retailers are doing with their recyclable waste.
- Be aware of what is thrown away and what is recyclable. Most recycling programs will accept paper products, glass and metal cans; some programs accept plastic.
- Buy products that are easy to recycle and are made from recycled materials.
- Pay attention to food purchasing, and buy only what will be consumed.
- Consider composting yard and garden wastes at home or participating in a yard-waste collection program where the material is collected for composting.



Fostering Sustainable Behavior

One of the most difficult tasks faced by those who work to better the environment is changing public behavior. A website is now available to help with this task (http://www.cbsm.com). Briefly, this site includes the following features:

An online guide to fostering sustainable behavior. This guide provides detailed information on how to design environmental programs to effectively change public behavior. This guide will be of particular use to those who design public programs to encourage such activities as waste reduction, water and energy efficiency, alternative transportation choices, etc.

- A searchable database of nearly 1000 academic articles on fostering sustainable behavior.
- A discussion forum for sharing information and asking questions of others.
- A searchable database of graphical examples of social marketing as it has been applied to fostering sustainable behavior. You can find how others have made use of behavior change tools and review those examples via your browser.
- A case studies database which contains 37 cases. Approximately five new cases are added each week.

Tire Recovery Legislative Proposal

Washington State has one of the lowest tire recovery rates in the nation (11.5 percent) and is one of the few remaining states with no restrictions on the landfilling of tires. Thirty-seven states (including neighboring Oregon) ban or restrict the disposal of tires in landfills. Thirty-two states also collect a disposal fee; many of them use the funds to support research and market development for the recycling of discarded tires into consumer products or civil engineering applications.

The objective of the proposed tire recovery legislation is to increase the recovery rate for tires to 90 percent by supporting the development of a tire recycling infrastructure. The proposed approach includes a \$3 tire disposal fee, the revenue from which would be deposited in a Tire Recycling and Management Fund. This fund would be administered by an industry-based commission, overseen by a board of stakeholders representing tire and auto dealers, tire collectors, and local and State government as well as environmental interests.

The fee would be imposed on every new truck or passenger tire sold through tire dealers, retailers and car dealers. Retread and reused tires would be exempt from this fee.



The revenue deposited into the Tire Recycling and Management Fund would be paid out primarily to manufacturers of products made from scrap tires. Payment to these end users would be graduated, with higher resource-value markets receiving the higher payments. For example, retread tires would get the higher reimbursement, followed by crumb rubber products, followed by civil engineering chips. The lowest payment would go to producers of tires as tire-derived fuel. In order to receive payments, manufacturers must also submit evidence that the scrap tires processed originated in Washington State.

A portion of the fee would also be used to fund educational programs and R&D efforts directed at new technologies for recycling tires. The fee could be reduced in the future once a strong tire recycling infrastructure is in place and processors are willing to pay tire dealers for their scrap tires. The overall creation of stronger recycling markets for tires will reduce the motivation of some tire collectors or dealers to stockpile tires or illegally dispose of them.

A ban would be imposed on the disposal of whole tires in landfills. The landfilling of whole tires already presents great difficulties for landfill operators. The ban would not apply to sectioned tires since it will take time for a local tire recycling infrastructure to be developed in the state and the development of stockpiled tires for future processing must be discouraged. However, the processing of tires for landfill disposal would not receive a payment through this fund.

This initiative is the outgrowth of a study sponsored by the Northwest Product Stewardship Council. Support for the initiative is forthcoming from the City of Seattle, King County and other local governments. The Northwest Tire Dealers Association has been involved throughout the process and is considering whether to support or "not oppose" the initiative. Similar legislation will be proposed in Oregon during the upcoming legislative session.

Waste Prevention, Reduction, and Recycling Annual Awards

The waste reduction and recycling competitive awards honor outstanding waste reduction and recycling programs in place during 2000. Businesses & public entities that win will be presented with an award and recognized during the Washington State Recycling Associations award ceremony in May 2001.

Applicants will be judged on innovation; waste prevention; waste reduction; recycling; education; and partnerships. Facilities with enforcement issues may be disqualified. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of recycling experts with Ecology.



This award program focuses on businesses and agencies that use prevention, reduction, recycling and composting to decrease solid waste. All organizations that have implemented successful, innovative and creative solutions for solid waste problems are encouraged to apply.

Application questions are included in this brochure and at: http://www.wa.gov/ecology/biblio/0107006.html. For more information contact: Curtis Durrant, Department of Ecology-WRR Awards, N. 4601 Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205, (509) 456-6370 or email: cdur461@ecy.wa.gov. You may also call 1-800-RECYCLE for information on how to contact a regional recycling specialist. Applications must be postmarked by: **April 9, 2001**. Winners will be notified in time to make banquet arrangements to attend the WSRA Conference in Yakima, Washington, Tuesday, May 8, 2001.

School Awards Application Deadline Approaching

The deadline for the 12th annual Terry Husseman Outstanding Waste Reduction and Recycling in Public Schools Awards Program is approaching! Applications must be received by Friday, March 16, 2001. Do you know of a school that has an innovative or outstanding waste reduction and recycling program? It could be one of many schools sharing up to \$15,000 in waste reduction and recycling public school awards from the Department of Ecology in 2001.

For more information or an application packet, contact Michelle Payne, School Awards Coordinator, Department of Ecology, (360) 407-6129, mdav461@ecy.wa.gov or visit our web site at www.wa.gov/ecology/swfa.

Want to Buy Environmentally Friendly Computer Equipment?

Computers are fast becoming a major throwaway. Computers are "built to last" but are usually declared obsolete after two or three years. The plastics, metals, and glass in computer equipment mostly go to waste as purchasers buy faster and more powerful machines. If not managed soundly, the metals used in monitors and chips and the multiple plastics can cause pollution and health problems. Hard-to-separate metals and plastics make for recycling problems. Equipment built without energy conservation can also increase pollution. Even if they're donated or sold used, the materials will be a disposal concern later. Millions of unwanted units already piled up pose a material recovery and pollution prevention challenge.

You can help keep the equipment purchased tomorrow from becoming future waste. Your purchasing decisions can affect the market, sending a message to manufacturers and suppliers. Join other leading companies and organizations in practicing Green Purchasing, addressing environmental dangers in procurement processes and recognizing the life-cycle costs of what we buy.

Would you like to buy environmentally friendly computer equipment? You can choose computers made with recycled and recyclable material, using less of toxic substances, possessing built-in energy and paper-saving features, and containing less that will go to waste when you're through using them.

A Guide to Environmentally Preferable Computer Purchasing highlights products currently on the market, offers language to use in purchasing requirements, and tells about environmental ratings and labels provided by third parties. Computer makers, industry rating organizations, and business and government staff were asked to comment on the draft Guide. The result is available in print and on the world wide web at http://www.govlink.org/nwpsc.

The guide was produced by members of the Computer Subcommittee of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council. The Council is an alliance of public and private entities promoting product stewardship in the northwestern U.S.

Why "Waste" a Cool Planet: MSW Solutions for Global Climate Change

On December 7th EPA hosted a forum on global climate change and how solid waste contributes to the problem. At the forum, a representative of New Jersey reported on a recent study they conducted to develop an inventory of their greenhouse gas contributions. This study showed that landfill gas made up 6 percent of New Jersey's total emissions and resource extraction was 3 percent.

An EPA publication titled *Climate Change and Waste* presents strong evidence on how some waste management techniques aggravate global climate change. The publication goes on to describe how waste prevention and recycling can diminish adverse climate change by reducing emissions from energy consumption and waste incinerators, reducing methane emissions from landfills, and increasing storage of carbon in trees.

To read this publication, and for more information about global climate change and waste, visit http://www.epa.gov/mswclimate.



Diazinon: Don't Just "Throw It Out"



In the effort to alert consumers about the phase-out of the insecticide diazinon over the next couple of years, some media may have given poor advice to their audiences. The state Department of Agriculture received reports that the message some television viewers "heard" was "Quickly go to your garage and look under your sink, and throw out any diazinon."

The calls followed an announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of an agreement to phase out the manufacturing, distribution and use of the widely used insecticide by 2004.

It is still legal to purchase and use diazinon products according to label directions and precautions during this phase-out. Consumers who choose not to use their supply of diazinon should dispose of it through local hazardous waste programs.

"Pesticides not disposed of properly can leak, causing environmental harm to property, animals and fish," said Bob Arrington, assistant director, Pesticide Management Division, state Department of Agriculture.

For information about proper pesticide disposal contact:

- Your local county household hazardous waste program. In King County, call 1-888-ToxicEd.
- The state Department of Ecology recycling information line at 1-800-RECYCLE.
- EPA's Web site on diazinon at www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/diazinon.htm.
- The state Department of Agriculture disposes of unwanted pesticides, particularly agricultural grade pesticides, under its Pesticide Waste Disposal Program at (360) 902-2056.

Ecology Walks Its Talk

In 2000, staff in Ecology's Lacey building recycled 55.58 tons of paper. Using conversion* information developed to quantify the environmental benefits of recycling, we calculated that recycling this much paper saved:

- 944 trees from being cut down
- 386,447 gallons of water
- 25,734 gallons of oil
- 32,625 pounds of air pollution
- 170 cubic yards of landfill space
- 226,600 kilowatt hours of energy (talk about energy conservation!)

If you have any questions please contact Steve Strope, Building Services (360-407-6089) or Shelly McClure, Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist SWFAP-SWRO (360-407-6398).



NRC to Serve As Information Clearinghouse for Electronics Recycling

The volume of electronic equipment entering the waste stream is rising dramatically. By 2007, nearly 500 million computers will reach the end of their useful life for their original owners, according to a recent report by the National Safety Council. The report also found that in 1998, only 14 percent of obsolete computer equipment was reused or recycled. Over the coming years, millions of Americans and thousands of organizations will need help making environmental choices when getting rid of used electronic items and purchasing new ones. The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) is implementing a nationwide Electronics Recycling Initiative to address this need.

Under this initiative, the NRC website will be a central clearinghouse for a range of critical information on electronics recycling and reuse options for consumers and small businesses. The site will house searchable databases of state-level regulatory and technical assistance contacts, local and regional electronics collection programs, and reuse and recycling markets for used electronics. To promote the design, manufacture and purchase of environmentally responsible electronic equipment, the NRC site will feature information for procurement officers and purchasing managers that documents model procurement specifications for environmentally preferable purchasing.

Through a regular series of online forums and educational programs, NRC will initiate a dialogue among experts and practitioners on current and emerging issues related to electronics recovery and recycling, design and manufacturing, procurement, and regulation. NRC will also develop publications and present workshops targeting institutional purchasing



communities to raise their awareness of the opportunities to purchase electronic equipment using environmentally preferable criteria.

NRC, through its Electronics Recycling Initiative, will help its members and others take advantage of this heightened interest in electronics recycling and will play an integral role in creating environmentally and economically sustainable systems for managing electronic products. For more information on the electronics recycling resources currently available, visit the <u>Electronics Recycling Initiative</u> section of NRC's website (www.nrc-recycle/Programs/electronics/index.htm).

Cracking Down on Litter

When developing ideas for a litter prevention strategy, Ecology received many comments voicing a general dissatisfaction with the enforcement of litter laws. While many support the use of enforcement, studies show that few states are able to enforce littering laws effectively for several reasons: lack of personnel available for a such a low priority issue, the difficulty of "catching" offenders in the act, and an overloaded court system.

Chapter 70.93 RCW, the Waste Reduction, Recycling and Model Litter Control Act, prohibits the acts of littering and illegal dumping. During the 2000 Legislative Session, SSB 6194 was passed, amending the law by changing enforcement levels associated with litter and illegal dump violations.

The legislation was written due to specific concerns about illegal dumping in unincorporated (rural) areas of the state. In addition to penalties, it added a restitution payment that can help recover the costs of pursuing such violations. Half of the restitution payment goes to the landowner where the violation occurred, and the other half goes to the law enforcement agency investigating the incident (or jurisdictional health department investigating the incident).

Chapter 70.93.200(3) RCW directs Ecology to recommend that local governments adopt ordinances similar to the provisions of the Chapter. Since most enforcement of litter laws occurs at the local level, a good first step is to ensure that such ordinances are in place.

The new enforcement levels as defined in Chapter 70.93.060 RCW are as follows:

- Littering less than 1 cubic foot = \$50.
- Littering a tobacco product capable of starting a fire = \$500.
- Littering more than a cubic foot in an incorporated area = \$250.
- Littering more than a cubic foot but less than a cubic yard in an unincorporated area = \$1000.
- Littering more than a cubic yard in an unincorporated area = \$5000.
- Abandoning a junk vehicle in an incorporated area = \$500.
- Abandoning a junk vehicle in an unincorporated area = \$5000.

The Legislature is currently considering a bill that would further strengthen and clarify this section of the RCW by eliminating the distinction between incorporated and unincorporated areas. For more detail, refer to the actual text, on the web at http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm//rcw.htm. Look up: Chapter 70.93 RCW - Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Model Litter Control Act

- ◆ Chapter 7.80 RCW Civil Infractions
- Chapter 9A.20 RCW Classification of Crimes
- Chapter 46.55.230 RCW Junk Vehicle Disposition

Calendar of Events

Central And Eastern WA Solid Waste Coordinators Meeting

March 14, 2001 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Kittitas County Solid Waste Offices, 925 Industrial Way, Ellensburg, Washington.

Waste Reduction & Recycling School Awards Deadline

The deadline for submission of applications for the Terry Husseman Outstanding Waste Reduction & Recycling Public School Awards program is March 16, 2001.

Waste Reduction & Recycling Awards Deadline

The deadline for submission of applications for this awards program is April 9, 2001.

16th Annual Hazardous Waste Conference

The 16th Annual Hazardous Waste Conference for Household and Small Business Programs will be held **September 4-8** at the Portland Marriott Downtown. Find more information at www.nahmma.org

NRC's 20th Annual Congress & Exposition

The National Recycling Coalition's 20th Annual Congress & Exposition will be held from **September 30 to October 3, 2001**, in Seattle, WA. Watch http://www.nrc-recycle.org for more information or contact: Rebecca Mebane, 703-683-9025 ext. 206; RebeccaM@nrc-recycle.org or Luke Miller, 703-683-9025 ext. 212; LukeM@nrc-recycle.org





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Helpful Links

Check out these EPA sites...

Solid Waste: www.epa.gov/solidwaste RCRA Online: www.epa.gov/rcraonline/

Municipal Solid Waste: www.epa.gov/garbage

Composting: www.epa.gov/compost/ Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines:

www.epa.gov/cpg

Extended Product Responsibility: www.epa.gov/epr/ Jobs Through Recycling Program: www.epa.gov/jtr Pay-As-You-Throw: www.epa.gov/payt

Recycling Measurement: www.epa.gov/recycle.measure/

WasteWise Program: www.epa.gov/wastewise

Industrial Waste Management: www.epa.gov/industrialwaste/

Corrective Action for Hazardous Waste Professionals: www.epa.gov/correctiveaction/ Hazardous Waste

Minimization: www.epa.gov/minimize

www.epa.gov/wastemin

OSW Test Methods: www.epa.gov/testmethods

Read this newsletter Online!

The Closed-Loop Scoop newsletter should not create waste. If we need to make changes to our mailing list, please contact Jim Bill at (360) 407-6125. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail please send a message to: mdav461@ecy.wa.gov with the subject line reading "Subscribe No-Name News".

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